

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /089 W
-----012222 092830 /70

R 011419Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 777
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XA, XF, JO
SUBJECT: JORDAN SEES ARABS WOOING WAVERING AFRICANS AT AFRO-
ARAB MEETING IN CAIRO

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSING OTHER SUBJECTS, EMBASSY
RAISED WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN
IBRAHIM AFRICAN-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN CAIRO
LATER THIS WEEK, TO WHICH IBRAHIM WILL LEAD GOJ DELEGATION.
IBRAHIM OBSERVED JORDAN HAS LITTLE DIRECT INTEREST IN
MEETING, BUT WILL PARTICIPATE IN GENERAL ARAB EFFORT TO
TRY TO CHECK WHAT SOME BELIEVE IS SLIPPAGE IN AFRICAN
SUPPORT FOR ARAB POSITION VIS-A-VIS ISRAEL. BY SAME
TOKEN, HE SAID ARAB SIDE EXPECTED AFRICANS TO ENLIST
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GREATER ARAB SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA POLITICAL
ISSUES. IBRAHIM AGREED MEETING WOULD PROVIDE
POSSIBILITY FOR MODERATE ARABS TO GET LOCKED INTO
STRONGER POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA THAN THEY MIGHT
WANT TO SUPPORT LATER AT UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
GATHERINGS SUCH AS NAC. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THERE
WAS LITTLE ARAB STATES LIKE JORDAN COULD DO UNLESS

THEIR MODERATE COUNTERPARTS IN AFRICA LED THE FIGHT AGAINST RHETORICAL EXTREMES. IBRAHIM SIMPLY SMILED WHEN REMINDED THAT OPPOSITE SIDE OF COIN WAS MODERATE AFRICANS' POSSIBLE RELUCTANCE TO GET OUT IN FRONT OF MODERATE ARABS ON ARAB-ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS, AND THAT MODERATE ARABS LIKE JORDAN PREFER TO FOLLOW ARAB MILITANTS' LEAD ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AT INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS.

2. IBRAHIM SAID MEETING ALSO EXPECTED TO TRY TO DEAL IN CONCRETE WAYS WITH IMPROVING WHATEVER ECONOMIC TIES ARE POSSIBLE BETWEEN AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES. WHILE A MAJOR FOCUS DOUBTLESS WOULD BE ON ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA AND AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS ADB, AGENDA INCLUDES ITEMS TO IMPROVE TRADE, COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, AND COMMON STRATEGY ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. IBRAHIM'S IMPRESSION IS THAT ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO INTRODUCE MORE SUBSTANCE TO AFRICAN-ARAB MEETING THAN HAS USUALLY BEEN THE CASE, PARTLY TO PERSUADE AFRICANS THAT ARABS WANT SERIOUS RELATIONS AS MEANS OF KEEPING THAT LARGE BLOC OF UN VOTES ON ARAB-ISRAELI MATTERS.

3. IBRAHIM SAYS DECISION NOT FINAL ON WHO WILL REPRESENT JORDAN AT AFRICAN-ARAB SUMMIT FOLLOWING FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, BUT HE BELIEVES KING HUSSEIN WILL ATTEND. MAIN PURPOSE FOR KING HUSSEIN'S PRESENCE WOULD BE TO USE OCCASION FOR DE FACTO ARAB SUMMIT
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IF MORE FORMAL GET-TOGETHER OF ARAB HEADS OF STATE DOES NOT OCCUR MARCH 6. HASSAN VOLUNTEERED THAT CAIRO SUMMIT NEXT WEEK MIGHT WELL BE OCCASION FOR KING HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT TO MEET AND HOLD TALKS.
PICKERING

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